

TAMWG Motion on Contract for TRRP Refinements (DRAFT)

The TAMWG recommends that the Trinity Management Council cancel the funding for the "Proposal to Address Refinements Trinity River Restoration Program," unless and until the TMC adopts the following <sup>By Laws</sup> suggestions from the 2008 Trinity River Situation Assessment Report by CDR Associates (pages 26 and 27):<sup>1</sup>

1. Shift the voting process from a supermajority to a simple majority.
2. Require a TMC member with a specific programmatic or financial interest in the outcome of a decision by that body to recuse themselves from voting on that issue.
3. Enlarge the number of voting members on the TMC to provide for a representation of a broader number of interests, and to increase the number of disinterested parties who could vote on programmatic or financial issues where other TMC members have a direct interest. This could involve adding some other government entities (the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resource Management Agency, or Humboldt County) or some members of TAMWG. If members of TAMWG were added to the TMC, consideration should be given to dissolving TAMWG, as its functions would probably be duplicative to the newly constituted TMC.

The TAMWG believes that spending up to \$250,000 on a the proposed "Refinements" contract would be a total waste of money because the TMC is clearly unable to reform itself. The 2008 Trinity River Situation Assessment Report contains numerous suggestions, but the above suggestions point out the core problems with the TMC.

The self-dealing nature of the TMC whereby member entities can vote on their own funding and block motions to do otherwise because of supermajority voting rules is inherently corrupt. The TMC consistently rejects many of the TAMWG's recommendations and doesn't even give the TAMWG Chair a vote on the TMC, leading to tremendous frustration by TAMWG members. The TAMWG favors dissolving the TAMWG and merging it with the TMC, similar to the old Trinity River Task Force. It is duplicative and wasteful for staff and other participants to have two different groups discussing the same issues.

It is unreasonable to think that spending a quarter of a million dollars on a new report will result in any new information that has not already been considered and rejected by the TMC. The TAMWG has consistently made recommendations to end the self-dealing nature of the TMC since 2007 to no avail.<sup>2</sup> We see no reason why spending more money on this obvious problem will make any difference.

An intelligent contractor could simply put a cover sheet on the Trinity River Situation Assessment Report and/or reword the suggestions. As long as the TMC is unwilling and unable

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://odp.trrp.net/Data/Documents/Details.aspx?document=2296>

<sup>2</sup> See attached TAMWG letters to TMC Chairman dated June 19, 2007, June 16, 2008, June 16, 2009 and September 28, 2016

to reform its self-dealing nature and allow stakeholders full participation, the proposed contract to “refine” the Trinity River Restoration Program is a total waste of precious funds that could be better used for on-the-ground restoration.